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NOTES AND ABSTRACTS

Belgian Studies in Child Welfare.—The August, 1921, number of *La Protection de L'Enfance*, published monthly by the Belgian Ministry of Justice (Vol. V, No. 28) contains (p. 1009) the second of two articles by Mr. P. Renault, an inspector, with reference to reforms instituted in Belgium in the field of child welfare. These reforms include, among others, the provisions of more ample resources for the institutional care of children; more careful classification on the basis of age and development, mental and moral as well as physical; the establishment of fresh air sanatoria, the more careful organization of institutional regime; the establishment of a central institution for the observation of children presenting behavior problems; sanatoria for the care and treatment of victims of venereal diseases; the establishment of normal courses for the training of teachers, courses which include institutes and conferences as well as formal curricula. The discussion of the principles underlying these developments is illuminating and modern. An illustrated article on the School for Girls at Beermen (p. 1054) describes an institution established in 1858 and administered until 1911 by the members of one religious order, and since that date by those of another. During the spring of 1921, there was established a commission on the curricula of childrens' institutions, and its deliberations reported in part in this number correspond with the subjects discussed by our own National Probations Association, National Conference of Social Work in its Children's Division, or Children's Bureau Conferences. Some of those topics were, for example, the relations existing among the juvenile court placing a child, the institution to which the child is committed, and the after-care agency on which the agency relies; the responsibility of an agency for the occupational training of a child in its care; the length of time during which a delinquent child should be held; the responsibility of an agency to which a child is committed for the rehabilitation of the child's home, etc. (p. 1057-1067). Among the enactments enumerated in the field of child-care is a law creating a commission for the control of moving pictures (p. 1068).

In the September-October number (Vol. V, No. 29) there is an interesting discussion (p. 1161) of the Difficulties of Parole, by Gerard Boon, Director of the Division of Difficulties of Parole of the Brussels Politechnique, containing an able analysis of the problem of the difficult child, in relation to inheritance, environment, social habits, etc. There is also in this number an article on the treatment of abnormal children in the delinquent group, by M. le Dr. Vermeylen, an alienist and psychiatrist, who reports in this article the results of a journey of observation to various psychiatric centers in the continental countries. There is also an interesting report of the work of a commission appointed in October, 1920, to consider an appropriate curriculum for Schools of Social Service. This commission recommends the establishment of schools qualified to prepare workers in the fields of (1) Child Welfare, (2) Private Charitable Administration, (3) Institutional Organization, (4) Factory Inspection, (5) Social and Mutual Insurance, (6) Public Library Administration. The commission not only emphasizes the domestic need, but the colonial opportunity as well, in the field of social work. In accordance with these recommendations, there was issued, July 14, 1921, a decree to the effect that a diploma of social aid (*Auxiliaire social*)

should be granted to any candidate who gave evidence of general preparation in (1) Public and Private Law, (2) Civil Law in Relation to Social Service, (3) Social and Political Economy, (4) Labor Legislation, (5) Public and Private Organization in Preventive Work, (6) Social and Personal Hygiene, (7) Social Psychology, and (8) Social Statistics. This general preparation must include visits to 50 social organizations or agencies. After examination on this general preparatory work, successful candidates may be admitted to specialized study, and after following a course in a selected field from among these eight groups for at least a year, may submit a thesis on some report on the work of that field and take a final (oral) examination. The conditions under which institutions designed to give the training outlined are granted subsidies from the public treasury are stated, and provision for central inspection is authorized.—*Sophomsa S. Breckenridge.*

Publication of the Official Reports of the United States Supreme Court.

—In July, 1922, Congress passed an act (Public No. 272) providing for the publication of the Official Reports of the Supreme Court in the Government Printing Office and for their sale to the public at cost of production, including a part of the appropriation made for the maintenance of the Reporter's office. This did away with the method of publication through contracts between the Reporter and private publishing houses, which had obtained from the beginning. The last contract of that kind expired with the publication of Volume 256, which completed the reports for the October, 1920, term. The letting of a new contract to cover the opinions of the 1921 term was impracticable, owing to the pendency of the legislation, to the expectation that it would be enacted long before it actually was, and to definite indications that, when enacted, it would supersede the contract method.

For various reasons, incident to the ending of the old contract and the legislative change, editorial work on the opinions of the 1921 Term was seriously delayed. Time also was consumed by administrative preliminaries under the new law, and in making necessary preparations in the printing office. Notwithstanding this, however, gratifying progress has been made. The reports of these opinions will be contained in three volumes to be numbered 257, 258 and 259, all of which, it is confidently expected, will be published in bound and pamphlet form before the close of the year.

The act provides for advance parts as well as bound volumes, when ordered by the chief justice. It was decided to issue a small edition of these pamphlets, four to a volume, sufficient to meet the requirements of public officials and of those lawyers who may desire them notwithstanding the delay. These, as heretofore, are made from the plates used in the final volumes and, therefore, correspond with them in page numbering. It is believed that their publication will not delay the bound volume, and it is known that the prompter dissemination of the opinions thus made possible will be of convenience to many, besides helping to detect errors in the plates. Two numbers, containing one-half of the opinions of Volume 257, have been issued at this writing. The price is twenty-five cents per number. The bound volumes will follow the corresponding pamphlets as soon as the plates can be re-examined and corrected and the tables and indexes completed and plated. According to present estimates, the price of bound volumes will be about two dollars and ten cents each, possibly a little more,